

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 476

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor Bobby Howard and the late Lounita Howard upon their induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since the county's founding in 1799, and those citizens involved in farming have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we specially recognize those outstanding citizens who have dedicated their lives to promoting the importance of agriculture in our society; and

WHEREAS, two such estimable individuals are Bobby Howard and the late Lounita Howard, who have been inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame for their hard work and commitment to continuing the legacy of the family farm in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the only child of R.L. and Christine Howard, Bobby Howard was born in Murfreesboro and attended Oakland High School, where he was a member of the FFA; and

WHEREAS, upon his graduation, Bobby Howard purchased the family farm of his grandparents, W.P. and Veda Mae Howard, near Lascassas in Wilson County; and

WHEREAS, born in Lebanon, the late Lounita Howard was the daughter of Lew and Sandra Cook; she attended Oakland High School and Middle Tennessee State University, from which she graduated with a bachelor's degree in mass communications; and

WHEREAS, a talented writer, Lounita Howard worked for the *Nashville Business Journal* and *The Lebanon Democrat*, where she was hired as a reporter and worked her way up to the position of editor; and

WHEREAS, leaving the journalism field for a time, she served as the director of the United Way and later purchased *The Watertown Gazette*, which she ran for several years

before selling the paper only to return to journalism when she established *The Edge* newspaper in 2015, which she used to spread relevant and agricultural news to everyone; and

WHEREAS, married in February 1983, the Howards lived their entire married life together on the farm and enjoyed spending their time together working on the farm and delivering newspapers around the community; this joyous couple was together for thirty-nine years until Mrs. Howard's passing in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Howard farm is approximately 1,000 acres of owned and rented farmland, where Mr. Howard now grows corn, soybeans, and hay and oversees a herd of 120 cattle; he recently added a registered herd of Balancer cattle with his goddaughter, Jessica; and

WHEREAS, highly respected members of their community, the Howards were charter members of the Lascassas/Milton Lions Club and served on the Wilson County Fair Board for twenty years; and

WHEREAS, Lounita Howard was involved with both the Lebanon and Watertown Chambers of Commerce, the Wilson County 911 Board, Leadership Wilson, Wilson One, and the Lebanon Business and Professional Women's Club; she was a founding member of the Women's Build Committee for the Wilson County Habitat for Humanity; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Howard currently serves as treasurer of Prosperity Cemetery and has filled Lounita's post on the Wilson County 911 Board; and

WHEREAS, the Howards were members of Bradley Creek Baptist Church throughout their marriage, but they also enjoyed attending services at Milton Church of Christ on occasion; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who committed their lives to developing and maintaining the highest standards and principles in their chosen vocation, and it is fitting that we honor Bobby Howard and the memory of the late

Lounita Howard for their valuable service to agriculture and the farming community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Bobby Howard and the late Lounita Howard upon their induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame, reflecting fondly upon their many contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.